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Half of the higher-type JZDs are in the border area, where the middle farmers, operating about 13 hectares, predominate. In this region such farmers go over in large numbers to the cooperatives, since until recently they had been agricultural employees rather than landowners.

The village rich have been exercising a harmful influence on cooperative membership. Almost half the farmers owning over 20 hectares, where higher-type JZDs exist, applied for and were granted membership in these units. This has occurred despite the warnings and admonitions of the Central Committee at its last meeting, that such elements were not to be admitted. The village rich are the greatest menace to the welfare of the cooperatives, since their tactic is to bore from within and undermine them. The best JZDs are those where agricultural magnates, or even small landowners with the exploiter's psychology, are excluded.

Last fall, many JZDs were behind in their work or failed to achieve the assigned work quotas. This was not always due to bad weather or lack of equipment. Or the contrary, much of it was caused by inadequate planning and organization. Work should be assigned to members not on a purely numerical basis, but rather according to types of tasks involved, comparative difficulties, etc. JZD members must also cease to regard themselves as employees of the state, and begin to consider themselves as coequal partners in a joint enterprise.

Considerable resourcefulness and ingenuity have been exhibited by members in building and adapting cooperative dairy barns. Nevertheless, it is necessary to speed up the process even more. Although JZD members are allowed to keep for personal use one cow, one or two calves, some hogs and sheep, and poultry in unlimited number, it is impossible to permit them more stock and fowls, since this would detract too many working hours from their joint tasks.

Last fall, the pay of many cooperative members was incorrectly computed, and as a result of this faulty bookkeeping they had very little desire and incentive to go out to the fields and proceed with the autumn harvest.

Soviet experience has demonstrated the value of groups specializing in some branch of agriculture, such as dairying, sheep raising, tobacco culture, etc. Czechoslovakia should profit by these lessons and encourage a greater specialization within the framework of the JZDs. There is an urgent need to enroll further small and middle farmers in these organizations, to create new cooperatives, and to convert lower-type into higher-type JZDs. More than half of Czechoslovakia's small and middle farmers still remain outside such organizations.

The performance of state machine stations is not generally satisfactory. Last year, the machine stations acquired three times as many tractors as they had previously possessed, five times as many binders, and nine times as many threshers. Nevertheless, many machines are in poor condition, and the rate of repair is too often slow. The attitude of the tractor operator towards his vehicle must also change, and he must be responsible for its maintenance. Work ought to be accomplished by permanent tractor brigades, working in two shifts. More concern must be expressed with the tractor operator's welfare, especially if he is on the night shift, and with his housing and clothing. Machine-station members, by proper political indoctrination, must become true apostles of socialism.

The establishment of state farms is proceeding too slowly and inefficiently. The personnel of these farms, with die-hard and unreliable elements in key positions, constitute the largest single obstacle to the development of the state farms. Hence their administration has been marked by wrangling and

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disorder. The level of plant production is relatively low, and the targets for hops, flax, vegetables, etc., were not fulfilled in 1950. More attention should be devoted to the state farms by party organizations on the kraj and okres levels, and conscientious, politically-aware personnel must replace the present bureaucratic and undesirable elements.

Thus far, merely the first steps have been taken toward cooperative agriculture. Only in one fifth of Czechoslovakia's obecs have the field boundaries been plowed up.

GIVES GRAIN PRODUCTION FIGURES -- Prague, Svobodne Slovo, 20 Mar 51

A total of 1,295,000 tons of bread grains was left to farmers from the 1950 harvest. Of this quantity about 357,000 tons were of seed and inferior grains, leaving approximately 938,000 tons of bread grains for consumption by farmers.

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